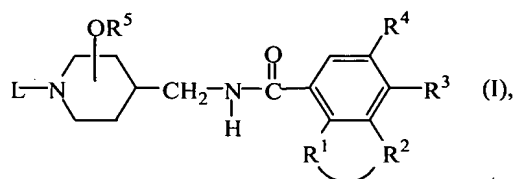


Amendments to the Claims:

Claims

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

-R¹-R²- is a bivalent radical of formula

- O-CH₂-O- (a-1),
- O-CH₂-CH₂- (a-2),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-O- (a-3),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- (a-4),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O- (a-5),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- (a-6),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-O- (a-7),
- O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C₁-6alkyl or hydroxy,

R³ is hydrogen, halo, C₁-6alkyl or C₁-6alkyloxy;

R⁴ is hydrogen, halo, C₁-6alkyl; C₁-6alkyl substituted with cyano, or C₁-6alkyloxy; C₁-6alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C₁-6alkyl)amino;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-6alkyl, and the -OR⁵ radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula

- Alk-R⁶ (b-1),
- Alk-X-R⁷ (b-2),
- Alk-Y-C(=O)-R⁹ (b-3),
- Alk-C(=O)-NH-C(=O)-R¹¹ (b-4),
- Alk-C(=O)-NH-SO₂-R¹¹ (b-5),
- Alk-SO₂-NH-C(=O)-R¹¹ (b-6),
- Alk-SO₂-NH-SO₂-R¹¹ (b-7),

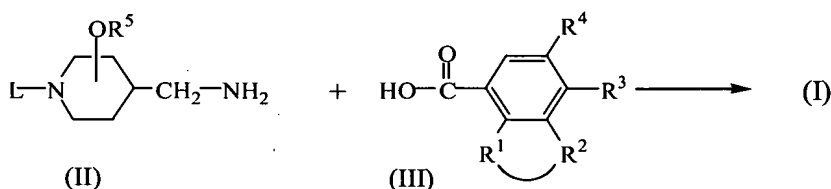
wherein each Alk is C₁-12alkanediyl; and

R⁶ is aminosulfonyl optionally substituted with C₁-4alkyl, C₃-6cycloalkyl or phenyl;

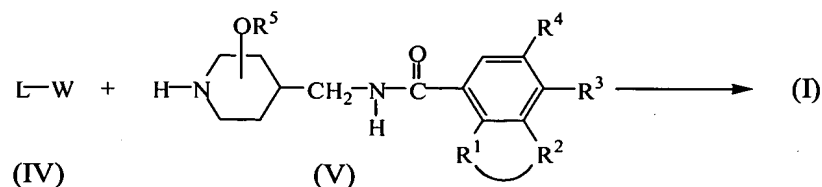
R⁷ is C₁-6alkylsulfonyl;

X is NR⁸; said R⁸ being C₁₋₆alkyl;
 R⁹ is C₁₋₆alkylsulfonylamino;
 Y is a O, S, or NR¹⁰ wherein R¹⁰ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and
 R¹¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl or phenyl.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the -OR⁵ radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.
3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).
4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein L is a radical of formula (b-1) wherein Alk is C₁₋₄alkanediyl, and R⁶ aminosulfonyl or aminosulfonyl substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl or phenyl.
5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein L is a radical (b-5) wherein Alk is C₁₋₄alkanediyl, and R¹¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl.
6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein L is a radical (b-7) wherein Alk is C₁₋₄alkanediyl and R¹¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl.
7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
 - a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



- b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals -R¹-R²-, R³, R⁴, R⁵, and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

- c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. (New) A method for the treatment of 5HT₄ related disorders comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
12. (New) A method for treating patients suffering from gastrointestinal conditions comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
13. (New) A method for treating hypermotility, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or diarrhea predominant IBS, pain and non-pain predominant IBS and bowel hypersensitivity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.